

Application Serial No. 10/687,132
Amendment dated June 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 27, 2005

Remarks:

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 16 have been amended, and except for claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 16, all of the claims have been canceled without prejudice. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 10, and 16 because of certain informalities which have been corrected.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Benedict et al U.S. Patent No. 5,675,876. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Benedict is directed to a casket comprising a shell, a cap and a memorabilia tray pivotally connected to the shell which is pivotally movable from a position inside the casket shell to a position outside the casket shell. The memorabilia tray includes a plurality of individual compartments and covers enclosing the individual compartments. The tray is for the display and storage of memorabilia.

In stark contrast, the present invention is a casket which includes deployable structure which is so configured and arranged as to provide display only of items of memorabilia, and not storage thereof. In this manner, the deployable structure

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takes up less space, is less expensive, etc. than the memorabilia compartment of Benedict et al.

More particularly, claim 1 claims a casket comprising a casket shell, a casket lid closable upon the shell, and deployable structure, operably associated with at least one of the shell and lid, and integrally formed therewith, which, when deployed, defines a memorial surface adapted to have placed thereon items of memorialization for display. The structure is so configured and arranged that the items of memorialization must be removed therefrom when the structure is not deployed. To more particularly characterize the invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the deployable structure is configured and arranged for display only of the items of memorialization and not for storage of the items. Benedict et al neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' casket invention of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested. Furthermore, as Benedict et al provides no suggestion or motivation for Applicants' casket invention of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that no obviousness rejection of claim 1 on the basis of Benedict et al is warranted.

Dependent claims 2, 9, 10, and 16 bring out further patentable features. It is submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the reasons stated above in connection with independent claim 1, as well as for their own reasons.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 16, the only claims remaining in the application, are entirely in a condition for allowance. Re-examination of the application is respectfully requested, and an early Notice Of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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